

Dr. Charles Sims Honored by the Alumni Association of LLU

By: **Don Roth**
Community Writer

Dr. Charles Sims, founder of the first independent sperm bank in the state of California, has been honored by the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University. Dr. Sims graduated from medicine in the year 1960.

He was given this honor during the centennial year of the local university.

Dr. Sims has been a national leader in the field of sperm banks, and was an early supporter of voluntary accreditation by the American Association of Tissues Banks.

He strongly supported state and FDA regulation of reproductive tissue banks and continues to be a national leader and voice for progressive change in safety and social matters.

The honoree is a Pathologist and is certified by the American Board of Pathology, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology of 1968.

Dr. Sims, a resident of Los Angeles, graduated from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1956 with a major in Chemistry. He immediately went on to medical school, and after his graduation in 1960 had his residency training at the Santa Clara Medical Center in San Jose, California.

He is the Medical Director and Co-founder of the California Cryobank, Inc., located in Los Angeles.

The reproductive division of his company provides semen

donor services nationally and operates laboratories in Los Angeles and Palo Alto, California, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York. The service also includes long-term human embryo as well as sperm cryo-preservation for men facing loss of fertility due to cancer and other reasons.

The laboratories are accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks, and licensed by the Departments of Health in California, New York, and Maryland, and are registered with the FDA.

In 1997 the California Cryobank established its umbilical cord blood stem cell bank and processing laboratory. This laboratory also provides processing and long-term offsite storage of peripheral blood stem cells to stem cell transplant centers. The Cryo bank was a founding member of the Association of Family Cord Blood Banks and continues to provide national leadership as the founding Chair of the Association.

After his graduation Dr. Sims was in the General Practice of medicine in Crescent City, California. He then took a residency in Pathology at the Santa Clara County Medical Center, and then became a staff pathologist at the Hospital of the Good Samaritan starting in 1968.

For two years from 1974 to 1976 he was Medical and Laboratory Director of the Laboratory Procedures Division of the



Dr. Charles Sims, founder of the first independent sperm bank in the state of California, has been honored by the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University. Dr. Sims graduated from medicine in the year 1960.

Upjohn Company. This laboratory was a major independent reference laboratory and the second largest in the United States at that time. This lab later merged into what is now Quest Diagnostics.

During most of this time

from 1976 to 2004 Dr. Sims was Medical Director and Chief of Pathology at Century City Hospital in Los Angeles. While there he was the Director of its blood bank and transfusion service and in 1977 established a blood donor pro-

gram and later added a directed donor component. He was instrumental in the formation of a school of medical technology and was in charge of the blood banking section. While he was at the hospital he served on numerous committees and was a member of the Institutional Review Board for 15 years.

In his professional life he was a member of the Los Angeles Society of Pathology and served as its president for one year in 1996 to 1997. He is a member of the American College of Pathologists and a member of the American Association of Tissue Banks.

For the United States Government he is a member of the Advisory Council on Blood and Stem Cell Transplantation of the Department of Health and Human Services. He is a member of 13 different professional organizations.

The "Honored Alumnus" status was given to him by the then President of the Alumni Association at its annual banquet held in Ontario, California.